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Be wary of who you befriend on social media as there has been a spurt in cyber-crime incidents, say cops

Pro-tip: Don't talk to strangers...

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The next time you receive a friend request from a stranger on social media, think twice before accepting it. According to the city, police, many of these accounts are handled by conmen who scam people by extracting personal information from them.

According to Bengaluru City police, netizens should be extremely careful while choosing friend requests on social sites. As per the guidelines, police say that there have been many instances where the accused try to contact gullible people by creating fake accounts and using DPs. Many times, these fake accounts are created in the name of women.

"Don't share personal information on chatting apps. There have been instances where the stranger tries to befriend the user with sweet words and later on the accused may try to extract personal information for blackmailing. Hence, it is essential for the users not to share any kind of personal information especially their weaknesses," said a senior police official.

The police have also suggested that social media users install privacy settings for their accounts so that only those in family and friends can see the updates. "There have been multiple instances in the past where a user's photo and details are used by a cyber-criminal to create fake accounts. Hence, if you opt for privacy settings, no stranger can either download the photo or access the personal information," said a police officer.

> **The stranger online often tries to sweet-talk the victim into revealing personal information**
>
> –A senior police officer

The police have also suggested that netizens can approach the police in case if anyone was trying to seek personal photos or money. The netizens are also warned of not opening any links sent by strangers in the form of mail, SMS or WhatsApp messages. "If anyone on the pretext of providing jobs is demanding money, documents or any other personal information, the user should cross check the details with the said company as there have been instances of job frauds via social media sites," said a police advisory.

Police issued the guidelines following a recent incident. According to a female complainant, she was approached by two social media users named Monika and her manager. Monika promised the complainant of getting a suitable job. However, as the woman complainant completely trusted the accused, she even shared her nude photos. These photos were used by the accused to blackmail the woman and forced her to have sex with a man at a lodge in Madiwala. Then, the act was videographed to blackmail the woman complainant further. Finally, she approached the police. City police said that they have arrested an Andhra Pradesh-based individual who confessed to the crime.

Stinking truth of waste management

| Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

BBMP has to fix the issues in three months and submit a report to the joint committee

A joint committee constituted by the National Green Tribunal has found the Municipal Waste Plant (MSW), Chikkanamangala plant, run by BBMP, and a private Common Sewage Treatment Plant (CSTP), Anekal taluk, to have violated multiple pollution norms. The MSW plant was found to be leaking leachate into the stormwater drain and wet waste was being dumped in heaps up to 5m height inside the facility.

The committee consisting of officials from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) to look into the allegations made by residents of Doddanagamangala and Chikkamagamangala village about the smell nuisance in September last year. An action report was to be filed within two months and BBMP was to bear all the costs.

The committee visited the MSW plant in November 2022 to ascertain the extent of violations and identify measures. It was observed that despite the usage of odour-suppressing agents, there was still scope for odour control. Wet waste was dumped in heaps measuring 8m in width and 5m in height inside the compost shed and adequate equipment needed for periodic tilting of wet waste was not found.

In yet another discovery, officials found `the overflow of leachate from the leachate collection tank was being let into stormwater drains connecting a small pond near the plant. They noted that the rejects from processing were dumped into an abandoned quarry pit unscientifically raising the possibility of groundwater contamination.

Further, the committee also visited the KSPCB-authorised CSTP in Anekal and noticed that it was not regularly operational. It was also found that the CSTP was not capable of treating the higher pollution load leachate. The CSTP was not equipped to handle the leachate load during monsoon season. The MSW was not well-equipped to handle generated leachate, especially during the rainy season and said the storage capacity should be increased to 100 KLD.

On account of the improper discharge of leachate and lack of information on scientific handling, treatment and disposal of leachate in the absence of the BWSSB STP agreement, the committee recommended levying an environmental compensation from the occupier of the MSW-processing plant as per CPCB guidelines.

The MSW plant has also been instructed to complete the in-house leachate treatment within six months and to treat the generated leachate in the CETPs near the plant. The plant has to maintain logbooks of leachate generated and disposed of, and all vehicles carrying leachate are to be equipped with GPS. Digital piezometers should be established in the facility to ascertain that groundwater is not being contaminated and analysis reports to be shared with KSPCB at least twice a year. The leachate being let into the pond needs to stop immediately, urged the committee in the report.

After fixing all the issues within three months, BBMP has to submit an action plan to the committee.

Dip in elephant deaths in our jungles

| Garima Prasher
c-garima.prasher
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

According to the elephant mortality data by the Karnataka Forest Department, the mortality rate of elephants in Karnataka has improved considerably in 2022.

As per the official data, while 79 elephants were reported dead due to various natural and unnatural causes between January and December 2021, only 52 elephant deaths have been marked by the department in the same period in 2022.

Deaths owing to unnatural causes such as electrocution have gone down too. While 12 unnatural deaths due to electrocution were recorded in 2021, nine such incidents have been observed between January and December 2022.

According to the officials from the Karnataka Forest Department, while multiple factors are at play when it comes to wildlife mortality, a lower number of elephant deaths can be attributed to various measures taken by the department in recent days.

"Our mandate is to manage unnatural deaths mostly by electrocution and poaching. These cases are being detected and legal actions under the Wildlife Protection Act are being taken immediately. We are involving the police and electrical inspectorate too in the process," said Kumar Pushkar, APCCF (wildlife), Karnataka Forest Department.

Awareness among villagers and farmers along forest fringes created by the frontline staff might be yet another factor behind the drop in cases.

Recently, the state government announced that the ex-gratia amount in case of crop loss or death of people due to attack by wild animals would be doubled from the current compensation amount. Officials say this step will help in reducing the number of elephant mortality cases further.

"Farmers or villages living close to forest areas resort to extreme steps such as electrocution or firing to save their crops and fields from being raided by the elephants. If the government provides sizable compensation for the damage caused, the farmers will not go that far as such actions involve risk. The Chief Minister's decision to double the ex-gratia amount both for crop damage and life loss will improve the situation further," said Kumar Pushkar.

While deaths due to electrocution have gone down, it has not improved much looking at the total number of elephants dying. While 12 out of 79 death cases were due to electrocution in 2021; during January and December 2022, as many as 9 out of 52 elephants died due to electric shock.

Through 2020-21, while 13 elephants died of unnatural causes, 11 of them were electrocuted; during 2019-20, nine unnatural deaths were recorded, all due to electric shocks.

Wildlife researchers say the department should take up preventive measures to further put a check on unnatural deaths.

"The department should conduct a combing operation and work closely with the electricity supply companies to catch hold of the offenders who are tapping into power lines illegally to draw such high voltage wires. They must be stopped. While the forest department cannot register cases against such offenders, the local electricity board can take up such cases," said Ramesh Belagere, wildlife researcher, Foundation for Ecology and Education Development.

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Despite stringent measures adopted, substandard helmets continue to be sold and worn by two-wheeler riders across Bengaluru

HEADS UP FOR PROPER HELMETS

Cheap ornamental half helmets sold for Rs 80-100 offer no protection

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A protective headgear, conforming to the Bureau of Indian Standards, is a must for a person riding a motorcycle. However, many two-wheeler riders are seen wearing substandard half helmets in the city though wearing a helmet is a must for every person, above four years of age, as per the Section 129 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1998.

That said, many road-side vendors and even a few shops are seen selling the substandard half helmets at cheaper prices anywhere between Rs 80 and Rs 100 — these are ornamental headgear that provide no protection to the two-wheeler rider in case of a road accident.

Meanwhile, Bangalore Traffic Police have been taking measures to check the use of poor quality helmets; but as the traffic police take more measures to prevent sub-standard helmets, more such helmets are being sold in the market.

"Wearing standard full helmet is mandatory for all two-wheeler riders as

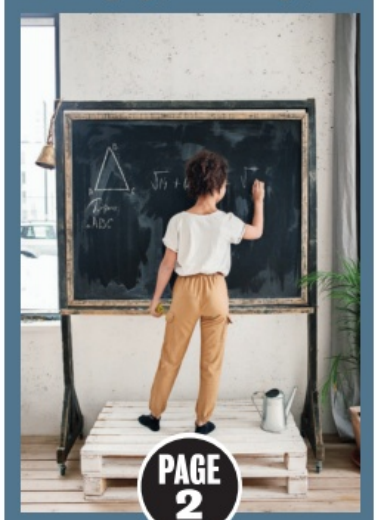
CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

"Head injuries and deaths among two-wheeler users, even among those wearing helmets, could be attributed to incorrect or substandard helmet use

— Dr Pratima Murthy, director, NIMHANS

EXAM TACKLE

Bridging pandemic gap



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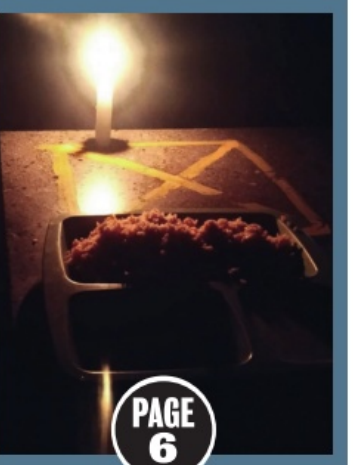

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Exam pressure? Help is at hand, kids

| Saumyangi Yadav
c-saumyangi.yadav
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

To cope with the learning gap caused by the pandemic-struck academic years, schools in the city are giving out several resources to help students cope with the upcoming exam season.

For example, the schools have decided to give sufficient study gaps between two examinations, even for younger grades like Classes 1 to 5, in order for them to cope with the exam pressure.

"We have some eight to nine subjects for Grades 1 to 9. We are holding one exam followed by one day study gap for revision. Otherwise, the students will find it difficult as the examinations are being held in schools after a gap of two years. For LKG and UKG classes we generally do not have examinations but instead give then an assessment," explained Father Sunil Fernandes, Principal of St. Joseph Boys High School.

Many schools have scheduled their annual examination one or two weeks earlier to accommodate the study gaps. "We will be starting with the examination by the last week of February and will go on till March 23. Since there are eight to nine subjects and we are not scheduling more than three papers a week, it will take at least three weeks to finish the exams," Father Fernandes further added.

Before pandemic, schools did not give study gaps especially for Classes 1 to 8. However, pandemic has brought learning gap as well as emotional and mental stress for students.

"Many students are unable to write an exam long enough for 90-10 marks. That is why we have divided some part of the total marks for practicals, viva and homework assessments. This would take off some of the stress," he added.

From study gaps to various aids, teachers are helping students prep

The schools have even uploaded study material, questionnaires and worksheets for the students on their websites ahead of the exam season so the students know what to expect in the examinations.

"This year, we are taking exams more like an assessment so it is easier for the students. In some of the papers like language, we are only taking a few of the chapters for the exams. However, worksheets for rest of the chapters will be uploaded online so the students can revise them before starting next academic year," he explained. Schools say that parents' role is also very important this exam season, especially to bridge the learning gap and stress issues caused by the pandemic.

"My daughter who is in Grade 3 will be appearing for a proper offline exam has been having a hard time coping with the system. We are trying to keep track of all the handouts and information sent from school and help them personally in order to resolve this fear of exams in children... It might take a few years for the children, especially young kids below 10, to cope with the aftermath of pandemic," said Rupali, a parent.

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Near Mysore Bank Circle, Bengaluru

At VK Kannada Habba, it's a feast for the senses

From traditional fare to performances by noteworthy artistes, audiences will be spoilt for choice at this event

The first-ever VK Kannada Habba is set to start from Saturday at Jnana Jyothi auditorium. The Kannada chariots were flagged off on Thursday and for the last two days, the chariots went around the city to invite Bengalureans for the two-day Kannada Habba.

Flagging off the chariot, MLC TA Saravana said, "I wish this unique initiative of VK all the best." Bengaluru City University vice-chancellor Prof Lingaraja Gandhi said that this is a unique fest and they were supporting this special initiative.

The VK Kannada Habba is not just a cultural and literary extravaganza but also offers a culinary delight. The food fair includes dishes like Jolada roti, Holige, Neer dose, Patrode, Kadubu, Akki roti, Thatte idli, Maddur vade, Bangarpet chaats, Samosa, Kachori, Karadantu, Davanagere Benne Dose, Mirchi Mandakki, Melukote puliyogare, Mulbagal dose, Chintamani chaats, icecream, Bajji bonda, papad and potato-twisters and a lot more.

VK Kannada Habba organised in association with Bengaluru City University will begin with a colourful procession of Kannada Ratha by folk artistes on Saturday. The programme will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Basavaraj S Bommai on Saturday at 10.30 am. Revenue Minister R Ashoka, actor-director Rishab Shetty, litterateur HS Venkatesh Murthy, Prof Lingaraja Gandhi (Bengaluru City University vice-chancellor), Pradeep Eshwar (Head of Parishrama NEET Academy), SP Dayanand (Executive Director, DS Max) and K Vijaya Kala (Head of Ad6 Advertising) will be the chief guests. A host of interesting programs are lined up for the two-day programme. On day one, film actor Anirudh will inaugurate the 'Health is wealth' programme which also includes a free health checkup, eye checkup, dental checkup and cancer checkup camps.

This will be followed by a book mela, food mela, interaction with Rishab Shetty, a special performance of play 'Tughlaq' and a screening of short movie 'walking with wolves' (by Krupakar Senani), Bharatanatyam by Anuradha Vikranth, music-comedy jugal bandi by Naveen Sajju and Raghavendra Acharya.

The entry for Kannada Habba is free. For registration, WhatsApp your name, address and contact number to 7676668588. There is also parking space available near the venue for the visitors.

— Prakash VL

Chariots promoting the event; left: actor-director Rishab Shetty, right: A play Tughlaq, will be performed on stage

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Cosmopolitan look with rural flavour

Kanakapura Road is turning out to be hot favourite for property buyers

Kanakapura Road is one of the preferred options for those planning to buy properties in Bengaluru. Even though it is a little away from the heart of the city in South Bengaluru, mega infrastructure projects like the metro and Satellite Ring Road (STRR) have made the area a realty paradise. There are a number of prestigious IT companies, corporate companies, educational institutions, malls, and entertainment centres attracting people from different states.

Kanakapura Road is home to people from diverse backgrounds. As a result, there are several restaurants with diverse food options. There are a number of textile industries, wellness centres, party halls, beauty centres, and shopping complexes which have increased property value of the area.

Best bet for investment

There are affordable sites and plots for all types of property buyers here. This is the reason why there is a growing interest in terms of buying land in and around the area. Infrastructure projects have greatly contributed to the growth in the real estate market in Kanakapura Road. The demand is higher for vacant plots, flats, and residential houses.

Properties that suit the budget of the middle class are also available. Apart from this, the presence of prestigious educational institutes and religious places has also been contributing to the area's increasing popularity.

Currently, Bengaluru-Kanakapura is a four-laned road. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is constructing the STRR which connects Kanakapura Road and Ramanagar through Anekal. This will boost the development of Kanakapura Road and surrounding areas. Even though the STRR project is being delayed, it is sure to be a big boost for commuting as it will reduce traffic congestion on Kanakapura Road and ease travel to the city.

High Density Corridor

Kanakapura road is also one of the major roads selected for upgradation as a part of the 'high-density corridors' project in the city. The 12 corridors have been divided into four packages. The first package includes Old Bellary Road, Old Madras Road (OMR), and a stretch on Outer Ring Road (ORR) from Goraguntepalya to OMR.

The second package includes Old Airport Road, Sarjapur Road, the stretch between ORR and KR Puram until Central Silk Board (CSB).

The third package includes Hosur Road, Bannerghatta Road, Kanakapura Road and ORR from CSB to Mysuru Road. The fourth package includes Mysuru Road, Magadi Road, Tumakuru Road, West of Chord Road and ORR from Mysuru Road to Goraguntepalya.

The package specifies improvement and maintenance. For the first package, the tender states that the improvement will be for 18.17 km, and maintenance, for 32.7 km at a cost of Rs 153.81 crore. For the second package, it specifies 15.22 km for improvement and 25.9 km for maintenance at a cost of Rs 92.89 crore. In the third package, 18.35 km will be taken up for improvement and 33.2 km will be taken up for maintenance at Rs 130.82 crore. In the fourth package, 19.31 km will be taken up for improvement and 54.6 km will be taken up for maintenance for a sum of Rs 216.86 crore.

The initial improvement period is nine months from the time the tender is awarded. Maintenance will be taken up for five years. **-Prakash VL**

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Break point: Of lies, tech

A lot transpired in the past few days — the lie took a break, perhaps.

When you are presented with breaking news — how one of the richest individuals is 'pulling off the biggest con in corporate history'— 'con' is the key word here, mind you — of far reaching ramifications, especially for the health of public sector undertakings, Life Insurance Corporation of India, State Bank of India, among others where ordinary citizens have invested their monies — 'nuanced' commentary goes mum. Curious, the silence, even after a $100 billion loss to the person's businesses in which the PSUs have stakes.

Folks who have opinions about everything under the sun as long as they do not rattle the establishment have no queries now as they did when the '2G scam' unravelled ahead of 2014 Lok Sabha polls even though the scale of this 'con' is enormous. The courts could not find major irregularities in 2G auctions as the propped up anti-corruption movement did back then. Curious too is the absence of anti-corruption crusaders now.

Neither did the disseminators of 'nuanced' wisdom on digital platforms feel embarrassed to look away from the unexpected box office success of an unnecessarily targeted film, the remarkably emotional culmination of a Yatra that traversed the length of the country in Kashmir advocating the imminence of compassion, love and peace over hatred in these morally bankrupt times, nor from the ever critical questions raised by an investigative documentary series of the BBC.

None of the aforesaid developments are warning signs requiring deep and profound introspection in our 'diabolic digital bar talk', it would seem, whichever echo chamber you are caught up in at the moment. Sigh.

Well then. The events that unfolded in such a short span of 5-7 days were as though a massive great white shark had suddenly materialised in the shallows and resident ambush predators were forced to scramble for cover. If you ignore all the shape-shifting entities and melodrama henceforth, alongside the 'first budget of the Amrit Kaal', concern over OpenAI's ChatGPT assumes rather topical focus on the contrary.

When one was left wondering why an internet search engine is seemingly appropriating the answer for everything in the known universe and beyond, and not good old books or libraries as they should be, a much more complicated entity in the form of an 'artificially intelligent' chatbot has appeared.

A commentator cited the chatbot as one of the reasons for Google going into firefighting mode, layoffs and all, before what's going to hit the tech giants soon, apparently.

My concerns are quite different just like they have been about the chatbots' predecessor search engines. However, do check out this hugely popular digital entity and maybe key in your first query, in the meantime. It is indeed rather curious.

Now to the primary concerns: in all natural curiosity, what about intellectual property rights in the time of artificial intelligence-created content? When artificial intelligence-powered bots are gathering information from sources all over the internet and curating new information, can one attribute the bot as the author of the information its algorithm has just created?

This aspect becomes intriguing and perplexing when it comes to education, art and music and other human endeavours. Well, do we need AI-created art and culture when millions of artists/writers struggle to make ends meet?

Moreover, what about the effects of AI-based search engines and clones spilling over to academia, already strangled by existing search engines, that are privately held profiteering entities not educational institutions of service, blunting the learning process affecting millions of children and youths?

Two decades on, it is paramount that society does deep and profound introspection as to whether tech has in fact set back certain social indicators despite all the hullabaloo about its so-called virtues that are seemingly not helping anyone but the oligopoly amassing huge amounts of wealth in the grand facade.

In the tech landscape, while adopting AI, social inclusion, diversity and inherent bias of the authors of the software are to be taken into account in emerging economies. This is an ever critical factor in a country as diverse and pluralistic as India; a few college graduates in the west, absolutely unaware of the social fabric of India, cannot write code or software that powers AI to be used in this geography.

The blurring boundaries of tech and state are becoming starkly clear as big tech, even after pitfalls in its trajectory and inherent flaws, is allowed to wreck humanity's uncertain future amid minimal effort to ensure equity, diversity or a level playing field.

The distinction between man and machine is a constant no doubt. Fact is, when you programme the machine to be like humans in power and ignore the vast majority of hapless global citizenry, you are actively contributing to the disenfranchisement of the marginalised furthermore.

Indira canteens' future seems dark & gloomy

'Either pay dues or just shut canteens; don't charge commercial rates from us': some demands made by distraught contractors

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Indira Canteen set up to provide affordable meals to the citizens is in dire straits. Contractors managing the canteen say that while electricity and water supply has been an issue right from the start, pending bill payment by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has compounded their worries.

No electricity in an Indira canteen at Ward 142

Contractors rue the fact that a service intended for the larger welfare of the city is being treated like a business.

For the past week, there is no electricity in the Indira Canteen at Ward 142. Visitors to the facility told BM that the canteen located near Kempegowda Nagar Police Station is in darkness. "For the past 6-8 days, there has been no electricity. Due to electricity issues, there is no water at the facility as well. The water is also not clean," said Revana Siddesh, a student. The canteen is being managed by Chef Talk.

Contractors managing the facility told BM electricity was restored on Thursday itself but BBMP's failure to make payments is causing operational issues. "We have not been getting payments from BBMP so there is a delay in payment of utilities," said a representative.

Another representative said that they have not received any payment from Palike for the past 17 months now and around Rs 30-35 crore is pending. "We have not taken water from BWSSB for two years now. We use water from cans and to cook, we use water tankers. We are opposing commercial rates for electricity and have raised the issue with BBMP," said a representative of Chef Talk Food and Hospitality Pvt Ltd. He added that during covid, the canteen gave free food, but pending payments from the BBMP are still due. "We have been managing for a year now but without payments, it's not possible to continue. Either the BBMP should pay the pending bills or close Indira Canteens. As per the agreement, BBMP has to pay 50% of bills within seven days and the remaining 50% after the officials sign off," he added. Chef Talk runs 90 Indira Canteens in the city.

Nearly 40 canteens in East zone under Adamya Chethana too do not have water supply. "Being a government subsidised project, utility expenses should be same as domestic prices. We took over the canteens in 2020, before which, it had BWSSB connection. The outstanding amount is Rs 1.8 crore and with interest it is Rs 2 crore. All our canteens do not have water supply. For nonpayment of bills, sewage lines were broken. We are still paying for electricity at commercial rates. Before covid, we had written to BBMP about arrears," said a representative from Adamya Chethana.

> **We have been managing for a year now but without payments, it's not possible to continue**
>
> –Representative of ChefTalk

Another contractor said that they have been facing water supply issues from day one. "We are being charged at commercial rates for electricity and water," said a representative from REWARDS that runs canteens in Yelahanka, Mahadevapura, Dasarahalli and RR Nagar zones. In 2020, BBMP filed an FIR against Chef Talk and REWARDS for "over-drawing the bills and wasting state money".

BBMP's Health Department, in charge of the canteens, said the issue is in the government's radar. "The proposal for extension of services has been sent to the government. Talks are on about the commercial rates too," said a health official.

EV charging station at IIM campus

Saumyangi Yadav
c-saumyangi.yadav
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

As a step towards sustainable mobility, the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIMB) has launched its first EV charging station inside the campus.

"IIM Bangalore has initiated multiple steps over the years to have a sustainable campus such as rainwater harvesting, roof-top solar panels, bio-gas plant for kitchen waste, waste segregation at source, green cover protection, etc. Our campus was designed on the philosophy of sustainability. This EV initiative is our next step in this direction," SD Aravendan, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), IIM Bangalore told Bangalore Mirror.

The institute has exchanged an agreement with a private charging station provider, Pi EV Solutions Pvt Ltd. The charging station was inaugurated on the campus last week on Thursday by Prof. Rishikesha T Krishnan, Director, IIM Bangalore.

This is the first time the institution has installed a vehicle charging station on the campus, however, there might be a few more stations coming to the campus in the future.

> **Charging station can be used by entire IIM community including professors, students and visitors**

"We are in the process of installing additional charging stations on-campus in a phased manner," Aravendan added, "Currently, over 30 people in the IIMB community own and are using EVs. IIMB also has an electric buggy for the campus to be used by all. That is why we decided to install a charging station on campus."

The institute has been trying to push for green and sustainable mobility. "The charging station is accessible to the entire IIMB community including professors, students and to visitors," he added.

Magadi Road four-laning likely this year

So far, only 14.8 km has been four-laned, 12.82 km has been two-laned

While all the major roads that connect Bengaluru to nearby towns are being four-laned, work on Magadi road is likely to be completed this year. According to the latest data, less than half the road has been four-laned. PWD Minister CC Patil said, "The total length of the project is 50.7 kilometres, and so far, only 14.8 km of the road has been four-laned and 12.82 km has been two-laned."

According to him, the reason for the delay in the work was due to land acquisition issues and shifting the utilities. The minister has set a fresh deadline - May 31, 2023 - for completion of the four-laning project.

Patil said that the project has been taken up under K-Ship using a loan from Asian Development Bank. The entire road has been divided into three packages.

For a long time, there has been a demand to decongest Bengaluru-Magadi Road by creating a four-lane road as there has been a drastic increase in traffic in. While the road till Gollarahatti (near NICE junction) falls under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits, the stretch from Gollarahatti to Magadi Road falls under the rural limits.

The BBMP is currently in the process of widening the road from Outer Ring road (ORR) till Gollarahatti.

Officials said that a number of bridges, including a flyover, were being constructed as a part of this project. The major bridge in this project was constructed across River Arkavathi near Thippagondanahalli (TG Halli) reservoir. "Beyond Tavarekere, the road is a winding one as it passes via a few valleys.

For a long time, there has been a demand to decongest Bengaluru-Magadi Road by creating a four-lane road as there has been a drastic increase in traffic in. The BBMP is currently in the process of widening the road from Outer Ring road (ORR) till Gollarahatti.

We are straightening the alignment wherever possible. At TG Halli, a new bridge is being constructed across the river so that the road can be straightened. A small hillock after TG Halli is being carved out to straighten the road as it was a winding road earlier," said an official, adding that road widening was also being done to reduce accidents.

The narrow road had been leading to many mishaps. Road widening will also boost tourism as this stretch leads to places like Thippagondanahalli, Savandurga, and Magadi fort.

If this road is developed, it can also be used as an alternative road to reach Kunigal-Mangaluru Road. While all the major roads that connects Bengaluru-Nelamangala, Yelahanka, Hosakote, Hosur, Kanakapura (still under progress), and Mysuru roads were widened into a four-laned road, Magadi Road has been neglected so far. However, residents are currently saying that the entire area has become a dusty one due to the slow pace of work.

"Once we cross the NICE road junction, it is quite difficult to drive towards Magadi because of the huge traffic on the two-laned road. There is too much dust, and people staying near the highway are suffering a lot," said Raju Gowda, a resident of Machohalli.

—Prakash VL

Some factors that shaped Indian housing market

Housing demand stayed upbeat

With approximately 3,64,900 units sold in 2022, real estate barely had any dull moments, as per data shared by Anarock Group.

Anuj Puri, chairman, Anarock Group said, "Housing sales remained upbeat throughout 2022, and this sales momentum is expected to sustain well into the first quarter of 2023. Thereafter, a lot shall depend on other factors such as the repo rate hikes, increase in property prices, and not just the homebuying sentiment.

2022 saw the repo rate go up by almost 225 bps, and home loan interest rates lost no time in going up concurrently - all these factors are bound to play a role in how much a home aspirant can afford."

Millennials played a key role

Anil Pharande, chairman of a leading real estate firm,said, "The fact that millennials developed a strong affinity for homeownership last year is a case in point. This generation, which typically favoured renting over buying, had for long been considered a 'lost' segment when it came to residential property investment. However, the year gone by once again proved that Indian residential real estate is a dynamic market that reacts to new impulses."

The rise of the suburbs

The walk-to-work concept, which involves compact homes around workplace hubs in expensive city centres, lost traction in 2021-22. The suburbs shone despite work-from-office and physical school attendance resuming.

42 per cent of respondents in the latest Anarock Consumer Sentiment survey continued to prefer peripheral/suburban areas where they can buy bigger homes with better lifestyle amenities at lower prices.

Only 10 per cent of respondents still chose city centre locations and only 23 per cent wanted to be within city limits. The rental market, however, saw a resurgence, as more companies started calling their employees to office (with many opting for a hybrid model).

— Arpika Bhosale

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Reforms panel bats for multiple choice questions

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The second Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission suggested that the government take measures to boost the pass percentage of SSLC and II PU exams.

The committee, which submitted its report to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday, said that there is a need for the introduction of internal assessments for SSLC, PU Arts, and Commerce students as this is the practice in neighbouring states.

Adding multiple choice questions (MCQs) in SSLC and PU exams for 15 marks in science subjects and 20 marks in social science and language subjects will help students score marks more than writing long answers, they said.

"Out of the overall average passing percentage (35) in SSLC theory exams, the minimum passing marks in the theory paper should be reduced from 28 to 20. As a number of students drop out while moving from first year PU to second year, the education department needs to take urgent steps to reduce this. One way of encouraging everyone to be literate is to provide awards for those Gram Panchayats and urban local bodies (ULBs) that had less than 90 per cent literacy as per the 2011 Census and have now achieved 100 per cent adult literacy," they further said.

The committee also suggested redefining the rural quota as Rural SSLC Board/Government School Quota.

Currently the CBSE and ICSE students form just 11 per cent of the total 'class 10 graduate' students in Karnataka. However, when it comes to allotment of medical seats, CBSE and ICSE students secure 48 per cent of MBBS Government quota seats. Out of the 15 per cent rural govt quota MBBS seats, only 3.45 per cent are going to rural government school students. This is why the rural quota could be modified, they suggested.

They also said, "The government may consider any of these three formulae. Firstly, convert the entire 15 per cent of the rural quota to a Rural State Government school quota. The second option is that if private school SSLC Board students need to be considered for the quota, the government may convert the school to Rural SSLC Board Government quota. The third option is that out of 15 per cent rural Quota, 7.5 per cent may be reserved for rural Government School students. The remaining 7.5 per cent could be offered to private aided, unaided SSLC Board School and CBSE, ICSE board school students."

Multiple choice questions in PU, SSLC exams may help students score more

World Cancer Day

Pink alert: Slight gender tilt in cases

Women account for 57% of cancer cases in Karnataka

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The cancer caseload across stages and types have increased in the last decade. Breast cancer is one of the leading cancers amongst women, and in Karnataka, it is women who deal with the highest instances of cancer. According to data, women in the state constitute 57 per cent of cancer cases.

Experts say that cancers with highest incidences among Indians are breast, ovarian, cervical, stomach, and oral. "Close to 45-50 per cent of patients in the Indian sub-continent are diagnosed with these cancers. Unfortunately, we observe recurrence of cancer in some of the patients. The relapse depends on the stage of diagnosis, lifestyle modification after the first line of treatment, as well as type of cancer," said Dr Vishal Rao. He is presently the Chief of Head & Neck Surgical, oncology & Robotic surgery, HCG Cancer Centre, Bangalore.

In women, over the last three years, breast cancer has accounted for over a fourth of cases. Cervical and ovarian cancers are the next big contributors. "Women account for 51 per cent of the cancer cases in India. In the last couple of years, Karnataka has seen 57 per cent cases in women. The gender tilt can be attributed to various factors like lifestyle conditions, stress, and hormonal changes," explained Rao.

Over the years, cancer rate has risen due to consumption of unhealthy food, smoking, alcohol, and lack of physical activity. Obesity can also play a role.

Early diagnosis and treatment can always prove to be crucial in the treatment of cancer. "Early diagnosis by a trusted healthcare provider is key to treating and managing cancer more effectively. The CAUTION mnemonic serves as a handy tool for individuals to proactively monitor their body for seven potential symptoms - changes in bowel or bladder habits, a sore in the body that does not heal, unusual bleeding or discharge, thickening or lump in a breast or elsewhere in the body, indigestion or difficulty swallowing, obvious changes in a wart or mole, and nagging cough or hoarseness," added Rao.

Some preventive measures

- **Healthy Diet:** A diet that is rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean protein can reduce the risk of developing cancer.
- **Physical activity:** Regular physical activity can help maintain a healthy weight and reduce the risk of developing several types of cancer.
- Avoid Tobacco
- Mental and emotional health
- Limit Alcohol consumption
- **Sun Protection:** Wearing protective clothing, using sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher, and seeking shade during the sun's peak hours can reduce the risk of developing skin cancer.
- **Vaccination:** Vaccination against human papillomavirus (HPV) can reduce the risk of developing cervical and other types of cancer caused by HPV.
- Regular Screenings: Regular cancer screenings, such as mammograms, pap smears, and colonoscopies can help detect cancer in its early stages, when it is most treatable.
- Genetic counselling: For individuals with a family history of cancer, genetic counselling can help identify the risk of developing cancer and provide guidance on how to reduce it.

How are Robotic surgeries helping cancer treatment?

Robotic assisted surgeries enable surgeon teams to perform complex procedures with higher precision, flexibility, and better, which is not always the case with traditional surgery. Additionally, this modality offers several advantages in cancer treatment like quicker recovery, shorter hospital stays, reduced blood loss, and better quality of life. At HCG, there is a dedicated team of robotic surgeons who are experienced in the management of colorectal, endometrial, stomach, esophageal, and other cancers

"Although the clinical outcomes vary across types as well as stages of cancer, we expect more success in robotic-assisted surgery. But like any surgical tool, it enhances the skill of the surgeon team and shouldn't be construed as a replacement to the medical team. Over 12,000 robotic surgeries have been conducted in India till date. As a centre of excellence in cancer care, HCG houses the advanced Da Vinci Robotic surgical system," said Rao.

Dr Neelesh Reddy, Consultant - Medical Oncology, Manipal Hospital, Sarjapur stressed upon the need for women to undergo tests after turning 21 years. "For detection of cervical cancer, pap smear test should be done once a year from the age of 21 years. For 40-year-olds and above, mammograms should be done once a year to detect breast cancer. Colonoscopy should be carried out once in five years after the age of 50 years."

> **"For 40-year-olds and above, it is advisable to get mammograms done once a year which can help detect breast cancer**
>
> –Dr Neelesh Reddy, Manipal Hospital

Congress upbeat about poll yatras

Karnataka Congress announced on Friday that it will comfortably win 136 seats in upcoming assembly elections in the state. Meanwhile, state Congress President D.K. Shivakumar and Opposition leader Siddaramaiah have launched bus yatras separately from southern as well as northern regions of the state.

Speaking to reporters, Shivakumar stated: "BJP government is not going to be there after 50 days. The Congress government is coming to power in the state after 50 days."

"We have conducted surveys in all constituencies twice or thrice. The people's response is wholesome. We will comfortably win 136 seats," he added.

He further maintained that the meeting to finalise candidates' list for assembly elections was conducted smoothly without any objections or dissatisfaction among leaders.

Siddaramaiah had presented 13 budgets so far for Karnataka. "I am part of the government for 16 years. We fairly have an idea of generation of income for our assurances of providing Rs 2,000 for every woman head of the family in the state and others," he said. The Congress party launched its second phase of bus yatra in the state on Friday. Shivakumar has launched yatra from Kurudumale near Mulbagal city in Kolar.

–IANS

Techie held for fraud, blackmail

Karnataka police have arrested a techie for allegedly trapping innocent young women by using an Instagram handle, here on Friday.

The accused has been identified as Dilli Prasad, a resident of Koramangala in Bengaluru. He worked with a private company and held five Instagram accounts, posing as a woman and a manager in most of them.

He used to chat with women and claimed that he could get them jobs in companies where he had 'contacts'. Believing his words, the gullible women came to the places where he asked them to come.

He mostly booked rooms in som hotels, and after the women came there, he forced them to have sex and recorded the same. He used to blackmail them with their private videos.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner Pratap Reddy said that Prasad had videos of more than 10 young women.

He mostly trapped the young women from Andhra Pradesh by using women's photos as display pictures. The police have lodged a case against Prasad under the IT Act. The probe has revealed that the accused was trapping women for the past two years.

–IANS

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- Music Concert by Naveen Sajju and team
- Selfie with Vintage Cars
- A procession of Kannada Chariots
- Bharatanatyam by Anuradha Vikrant

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- On-the-spot painting by artist Vilas Nayak

- Screening of Documentary 'Walking with Wolves' by Krupakar- Senani

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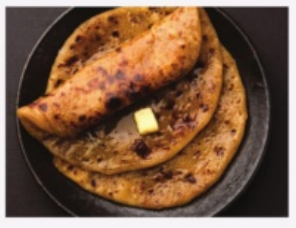

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Bengaluru's half helmet menace

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

well as pillion riders. CCTVs fixed at the traffic junctions will capture the images of two-wheeler riders and pillion riders who wear half and substandard helmets. Traffic police penalise such riders," said special commissioner of police (traffic) MA Saleem. According to data with Bangalore Mirror, the traffic police booked cases against 31,84,367 riders and 19,10,816 pillion riders in 2020; 39,00,651 riders and 23,09,563 pillion riders in 2021, and 43,92381 riders and 26,08,122 pillion riders in 2022 for not wearing helmets.

Many people feel the authorities must act tough against those manufacturing or selling substandard half helmets. They said it is like banning the use of plastic but being oblivious to the need to stop manufacturing plastic. "A few traffic police inspectors have organised programmes to create awareness about the use of proper helmets among two-wheeler riders and pillion riders. There will be no solution to this menace unless the authorities concerned act tough against those manufacturing and selling substandard helmets," said Sridhar N, a two-wheeler rider.

RJ Rohit of Indigomusic.com said there needs to be a complete shift in the approach. "People need to understand that helmets are not for getting away from fines but a safety precaution against fatal accidents. Only ISI certified helmets should be sold," said Rohit. Vinod Jacob of Namma Bengaluru Foundation said helmet is crucial for the two wheeler rider as it is a lifesaver. "Two wheeler manufacturers should promote this in their showroom/service centres complying with safety norms and should ensure riders have proper ISI helmets while delivering vehicles," said Jacob.

Senior traffic warden professor Chiranthana Nanjappa said a full helmet is advisable as it protects the head, portion of the neck, cheeks, forehead, ear and chin. "Both rider and pillion must wear ISI helmets," he said.

The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) has been working to prevent and manage traumatic brain injuries since its inception and the WHO Collaborating Centre at the department of epidemiology is focusing on injury prevention. "Promoting correct use of helmets to reduce head injuries and deaths is high on the agenda of WHO-CC and NIMHANS. The institute has played a big role in strengthening helmet legislation in Karnataka since 2007; now we are involved in strengthening surveillance and enforcement of standard helmet use in the city," said NIMHANS director Dr Pratima Murthy.

Data shows 34,394 accidents, 9,868 and 40,483 injuries, were recorded across the state in 2021 and 2022, of which 633 deaths and 2,777 injuries were from Bengaluru. "Over 70% of these fatalities were reportedly due to head injuries; the figures highlight the need for better compliance and enforcement of standard helmet use. Head injuries, even among those wearing helmets, could be attributed to incorrect or substandard helmet use," Dr Murthy said. Dr Murthy said, efforts of agencies and civil society have resulted in improving helmet use from 10% to 88% in Bengaluru.

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I, JYOTHI RANI D/o. Shivalingaiah H, residing at No. 23, 2nd Street, Basaveshwara Layout, BEML Layout 3rd Stage, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bengaluru-560098, have changed my name to JYOTHI RANI S, vide affidavit dated 02.02.2023, sworn before notary K.V Prema Kumari, Bangalore.

I Virendar Nath Singh Chauhan S/o Tularam Chauhan R/o #12/2 Dodda - ballapur Main Rd Rajanukunte B'luru-560064 have changed my name to Virendar Nath Singh for all purposes

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I Mahadevi D/o DIGAMBARRAO R/o No. 10, Gullappa Road, R S Palya, M S Nagar, Bangalore 560033. Have Changed My Name To Mahadevi Patil for all future purposes.

I (Bhanu Priya M) D/O (Manjunath R) born on (21/06/1997) residing at (Shanthi Nagar, Mysore-19), have changed my name to (Farha Siddiqui) vide affidavit dated (30/01/2023) at Mysore.

I, ULFATH JAN ASLAM, W/o, Mohammed Waseem residing at No.96, 6th Main Road, ITI Layout, Benson Town Post, Bangalore 560046 Karnataka, India, have changed my name to ULFATH JAN vide Affidavit dated 06.01.2023 sworn before notary B V Nagabhushana, Blr.

I, SUREKHA, Aged 51 yrs, R/o. Krishna Mystiq, 402, B Blk, Chikkathogur Mn Rd, Pragathi Nagar, E City, Blr-560100, have changed my name to Surekha Dabarabadi for all purposes. affidavit dt 03/2/23

I Kusum Lata Soni W/O. Kishore Kumar H R/o No. 407 Dsr Pride 24th Main Hsr Layout Bengaluru - 560102 have changed my name to Kusum Latha for all purposes.

I, Balachandra Alla S/o A. Srinivasalu Reddy R/o #3,1st Flr, Rajamma Nilaya, Daksha Residential Layout, Hirenda - halli B'lore-560049 have chan - ged my name to Balachandra Reddy Alla for all purposes. vide affidavit dated: 02-02-2023 before Notery Manjunath.T

I, Divya Ural Janardhan W/o Prabhakar Vijeth D, R/o 202,Vishal Apts, Model House Street, Basavanagudi, B'luru-560004 have changed my name to Divya Ural affidavit Dt.3/02/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

I, Nizammuddin s/o Younus Mohamed R/o #16, Wellington Street, Richmond Town, Museum road Bengaluru 560025 have changed my name to Nizammuddin Younus affidavit Dt.03/02/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda M. V, B'luru

I, Mariamma Kondaiah Isak D/o Isak Kondaiah Koshi W/O. Nirmal James R/o #203, Saran Residency, 3rd G Cross, Govind -pura, Dooravani Nagar, B'lore-16 have changed my name to Mariamma Kannamath Isak D/o Isak Kannamath Koshi .

I, Noor Basha R/o No 10 2nd Stage 5th Main Road Muniya - ppa Layout K R Puram Bangalore 560036 have changed my minor son's name from Mohammed Ali to Noor Mohammed Ali for all purposes

I, SALEEM DILSHAD RAZAK, S/o, Abdul Razak and Residing at No.96, 6th Main Road, ITI Layout, Benson Town Post, Bangalore 560046 have changed my name to SALEEM PASHA vide Affidavit dated 06.01.2023 sworn before notary B V Nagabhushana, Bangalore.

I, Alexander Mariadas Gnanaprakasam, s/o Sargunam Gnanaprakasam, #34, 6th cross, Krishnamurthy Lyt, Thavarekere main road, Bengaluru 560029 have changed my name to Alexander Mariadas affidavit Dt.03/02/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

I, MANI RAMESHA, S/o, Mani N residing at No.7, 2nd Floor, 10th Cross, 1st Main Road, Lakshmipuram, Halasuru, Bangalore 560008 have changed my name to MANI RAMESH vide Affidavit dated 02.02.2023 sworn before notary B V Nagabhushana, Bangalore.

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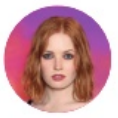

In Kate's shoes — Ellie Bamber is set to star as Kate Moss in a new film detailing her infamous relationship with Lucian Freud. The "Serpent" and "Nocturnal Animals" star will play the British supermodel in "Moss & Freud"

BangaloreMirror | 13
Saturday, February 4, 2023
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Entertainment Industry Promotion

Aim for the stars

TANUJA (KANNADA)
3.0 RATING ★★★★★
- **DIRECTOR** Harish MD Halli
- **ACTORS** Saptha Pavoor, Rajesh Nataranga, Sandhya Arakere, Vishweshwar Bhat, BS Yediyurappa, Dr K Sudhakar, Chitrakala Biradar, Kailash TV, Shalini Shadakshari and Raghunandan S K
- **Duration** 110 minutes

The story of Tanuja is based on a real incident that took place at Mallenahalli of Shikaripura taluk in Shivamogga. It explains how Tanuja, the daughter of a farmer, manages to write the NEET exam to realise her dream of becoming a doctor.

The movie begins with a police vehicle equipped with a public address system advising residents to remain indoors to protect themselves from coronavirus and emphasising on the need to maintain social distance. Pradeep Eshwar (Rajesh Nataranga), who runs a coaching centre, receives a phone call stating that Tanuja's (Saptha Pavoor) application has been rejected on technical grounds. It is the second time that Tanjua has tried her luck to realise her childhood dream of becoming a doctor. Pradeep tries to convince the NEET authorities but in vain. Later, he informs Vishweshwar Bhat about Tanuja's plight. Vishweshwar Bhat meets Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa and requests him to help Tanuja. The Chief Minister directs his personal secretary to ensure that Tanuja attends NEET.

Meanwhile, Minister for Health and Medical Education Dr K Sudhakar, as per the advice from the Chief Minister, contacts the NEET authorities and other officials in Delhi and gets approval for Tanuja to take the exam. What happens to Tanuja and how comes to Bengaluru from a remote village and how she reaches the exam centre on time is what the story is all about.

Saptha Pavoor, who has acted in Kannada movie Sarkari Hiriya Prathamika Shale- Kasargod, is at her best. Saptha's gripping acting in the climax will keep the audiences on the edge of their seats. Rajesh Nataranga walks away with all honours for his sterling performance. It may not be an exaggeration to say his acting in this movie is the best in his acting career. Sandhya Arakere, who plays Tanuja's mother, has acted well. BS Yediyurappa, Dr K Sudhakar, and Vishweshwar Bhat have provided good support.

As far as the technical team is concerned, cinematographer Ravindranath T has done an excellent job behind the camera. He has succeeded in capturing the lush environs of Shivamogga. One thing the movie does is that it highlights the importance of Namma Metro to reach anywhere without any hassle.

Director Haris MD Halli deserves credit for handling the megaphone with aplomb.

All in all, it is a must watch for students, especially girl students from economically weaker families, who crave to realise their dreams.

–Y Maheswara Reddy

'Don't spread rumours'

Janhvi Kapoor's fans will need to wait a little longer to see her in Tamil film.

After the reports surfaced online stating that Janhvi is all set to star in 'Paiyaa 2', her father and ace film producer Boney Kapoor, on Friday, took to Twitter and clarified that the actress has not signed any Tamil project.

He also requested the media to not spread "false rumours".

"Dear Media Friends, This is to bring to your notice that Janhvi Kapoor has not committed to any Tamil Films at the moment, requesting not to spread false rumors," Boney's tweet read.

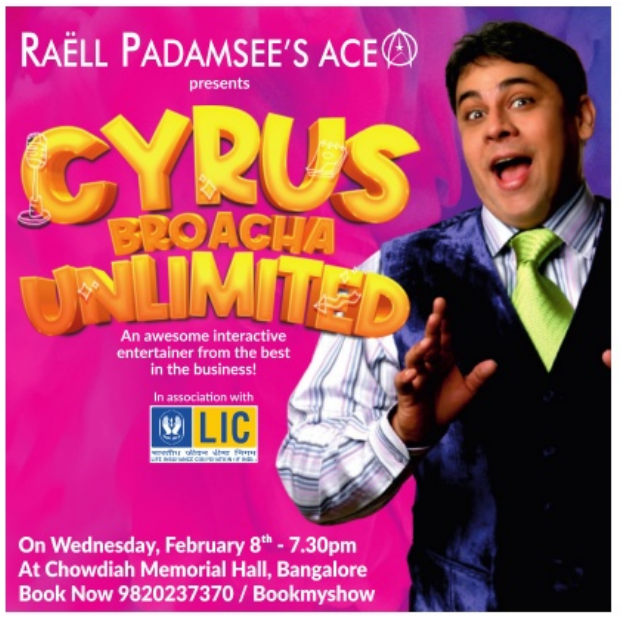
Meanwhile, Janhvi is currently basking in the success of 'Mili', which marked her first professional collaboration with her father.

Helmed by Mathukutty Xavier, the film also stars Sunny Kaushal and Manoj Pahwa in the lead roles. 'Mili', a survivor-thriller film, is a remake of the 2019 Malayalam movie 'Helen'.

ANI

PAGE 10

57% of cancer cases in Karnataka reported in women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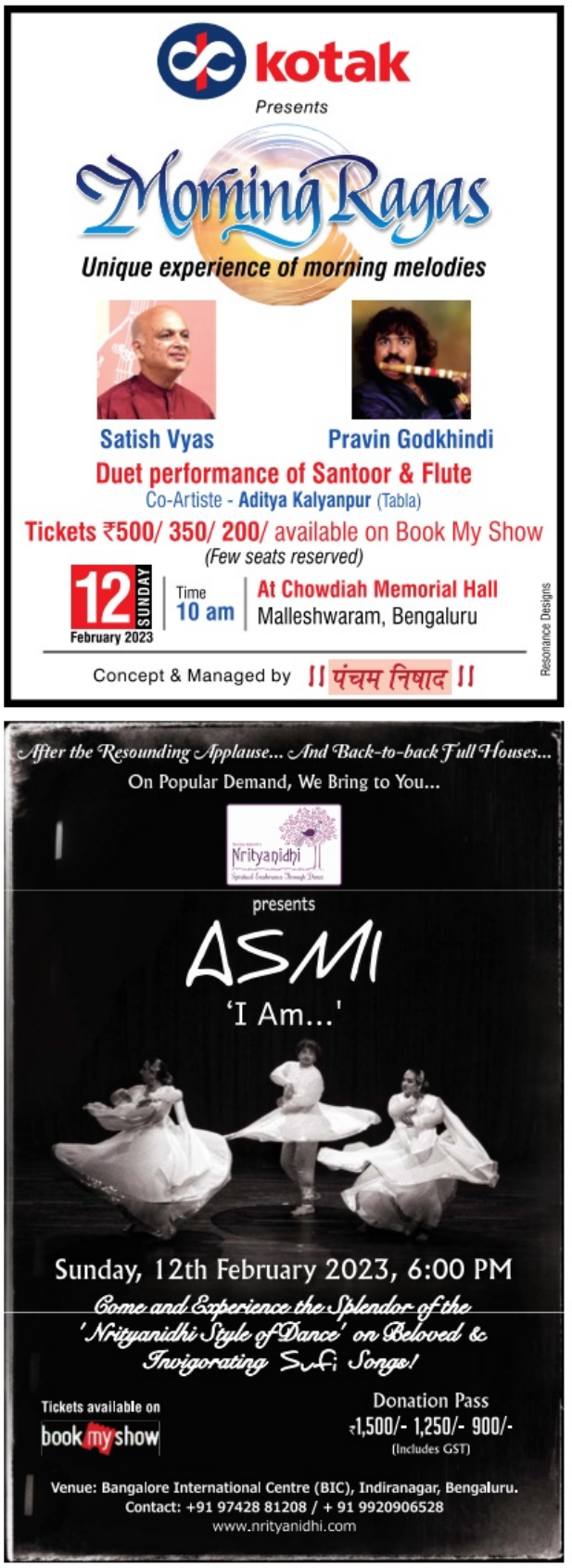

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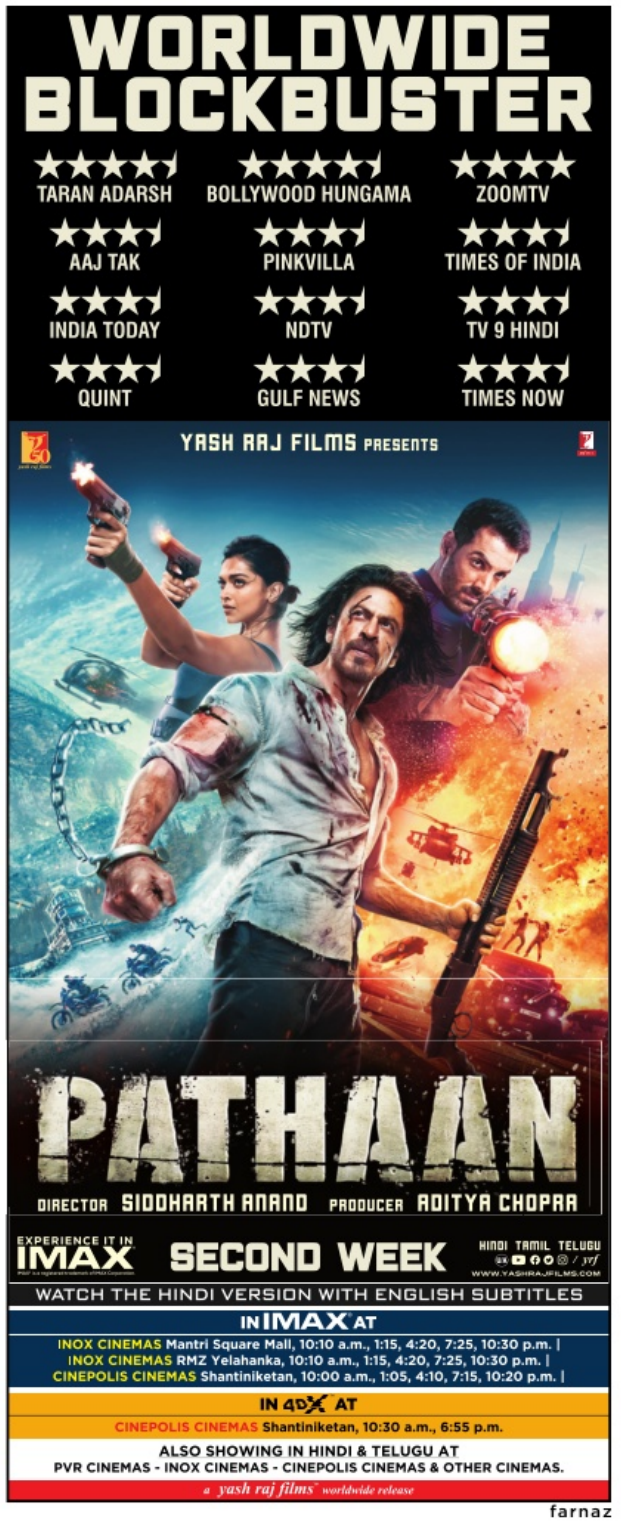
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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

ACOUSTIC BEATS

The tradition of bringing the bull and playing nadaswaram continues in Bengaluru

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Venkatalakshmi S**

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Charminar Road: Real test of patience

Ongoing road work is causing inconveniences to residents, they urge BBMP to reveal completion date

Shreyashi Mukherjee
c-shreyashi.m
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

It is very difficult to travel through the road when it rains. The road gets congested due to its narrow width

The residents of Charminar Road in Shivajinagar say that the road work in the area has been going on for the last 7 months and still has not been completed. The people are now finding it extremely difficult to use the road.

Dhanush Sivadas, a resident of the area, told Bangalore Mirror that his work has been going on for months and the situation has worsened. "When it rains the water often gets clogged on the road making it difficult for the people to commute. It also makes the road very slippery and prone to accidents," he said.

Other residents added that the construction materials are left on the side of the road. "The slabs, pipes and construction debris have been left on the road, which is further adding to the inconveniences.

These materials are taking up the space on the road and the commuters are left with no space. The road has become quite congested and it gets very difficult to travel by car through this road," said Kiran Saggere, another resident.

The road also has potholes which have not been fixed either.

Another resident told BM that the road is bumpy.

"What is the point of working if nothing is fixed and the road cannot be used by anybody? It is a horrible condition here and anytime a dangerous accident can take place if nothing is done to fix the road," they said.

According to Rajiv M Nair, another resident, it is very difficult to travel through the road, especially when one is on a two-wheeler. "Even if I try to cross this stretch carefully when it's clogged with water, it is still very difficult to cross. Because of the narrow width of the road there are traffic congestions as well," he said.

The residents now want the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials to mention the time period that will be required by them to complete the work.

"Nothing is happening in the name of development. It is high time the authorities should take responsibility for their actions. If they are taking up a work they should set up a display board, mentioning the starting date of the work as well as the date on which they are planning to complete it. In that way even the public will be aware of their plans," said Sanjay Gowda, another resident.

Meanwhile, a BBMP official said that they will look into the matter.

DID YOU KNOW?

Bangalore Club is one of the oldest clubs in the city. It was established in 1868. Earlier, it was known as the Bangalore United Services Club and was founded by Albert Thomas Watson Penn. It is set in about 15 acres of land. It is known for its beauty and lush green cover. It has had various prominent figures visiting its premises. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill visited there in 1896. It is said that he left behind a debt of Rs 13 as a mark of his days spent in India, which was written off by the club. In 1914, the Maharaja of Mysore was the first Indian invited to use the club. Currently, the club provides various facilities like gym, banquets, bars, sports and accommodation. The lounge is decorated with vintage photos and hunting trophies. The bar in the club has leather furniture and the dining hall is said to be 150 year old decorated with beautiful chandeliers.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

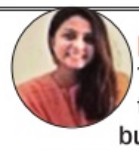
Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

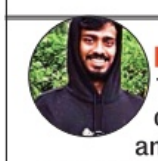
How do you suggest government ensures the rapidly expanding city does not lose its greenery?

Dhwani Jaisingh, BM Reader
Firstly, for all the trees that have been felled, 100 more saplings should be sown and the city must ensure that all restaurants and bars which are open air must have at least four or five trees or plants surrounding them.

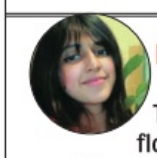


Michelle Mary, BM Reader
The government must look after the green cover, the metros and bus stations should have trees and saplings. Private and public buildings must have green cover around by planting at least ten trees. All highways too must have trees.

Sejal D'Souza, BM Reader
The government must ensure that all streets, roads and highways have sapling covers and trees planted along the kerbside to beautify the city, no barren space should be occupied with garbage dumps.



Ryan Thomas, BM Reader
The city should not lose its charm of being a Garden City, all public and private buildings must have green cover. More flowering pots are needed in schools, buildings and colleges. Even malls and parks should have more flowering pots.



Rajnandini Rathore, BM Reader
The city must have enough flowering pots and plants in all public spaces, roads, cafes, buildings and schools. The green cover matters a lot as the government is recklessly felling trees.

Srishti Sanskrit, BM Reader
The green cover must be well looked into. The college campuses, schools, public and private buildings, all cafes and eateries must ensure that green cover is there in almost half the space. There should be more trees near roads.

SPEAK TO US

What are your favourite places in the city to spend a quiet evening?
If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

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Future is math

> Many prediction tools rely on machine learning, among which include mathematical algorithms that are based on principles of brain function and use massive data to learn patterns

Mathematics could be predicting what you'll do next

Good scientists are not only able to uncover patterns in the things they study, but to use this information to predict the future.

Meteorologists study atmospheric pressure and wind speed to predict the trajectories of future storms. A financial analyst may try to predict the ups and downs of a stock based on things like market capitalisation or cash flow.

Perhaps even more interesting than the above phenomena is that of predicting the behaviour of human beings. Attempts to predict how people will behave have existed since the origins of humankind. Today, marketers, politicians, trial lawyers and more make their living on predicting human behaviour. Predicting human behaviour, in all of its forms, is big business.

So, how does mathematics predict our own behaviour in general? Despite advances in stock market analytics, economics, political polling and cognitive neuroscience – all of which ultimately endeavour to predict human behaviour – science may never be able to do so with perfect certainty.

Bigger and better data

When making predictions, scientists have historically been limited by a lack of complete data, relying instead on small samples to infer characteristics of a wider population. But in recent years, computational power and methods of collecting data have advanced to the point of creating a new field: big data. Thanks to the huge availability of collected data, scientists can examine empirical relationships between a wide variety of variables to decipher the signal from the noise.

Marketers use birth records to decide when to inundate you with ads for baby products. They even guess when you'll need those things based on the developmental stage of your child.

It isn't rocket science, really. It's simply having information (data) that shows patterns, and exploiting those patterns in the name of predictability (and often, profits). Though again, gauging the accuracy of these algorithms is difficult for the outsider, there's some work that reveals what makes these algorithms tick.

Mathematical models

Many prediction tools rely on machine learning, among which include mathematical algorithms that are based on the biological principles of brain function and use massive amounts of data to learn patterns. Machine-learning algorithms can accurately predict the outcome of Supreme Court cases, using such predictors as the identity of each justice, month of the argument, petitioner and other factors. Although the accuracy of the algorithm's output is only approximately 70 percent, it has actually been shown to outperform human legal experts.

Other machine-learning algorithms have been shown to predict suicide attempts with an accuracy of 80 to 92 percent, arguably more precise than even the best human assessments.

Mathematics may even be able to tell us about terrorist behaviour leading up to an attack. In one study, researchers looked at records of terrorist activity in Ireland, specifically explosions of improved explosive devices. After one incident, the probability of another incident was higher than not. In other words, the events were not independent. Such knowledge might be useful to a community, perhaps choosing to immediately mobilize efforts following a single attack in anticipation of another.

Is perfect prediction possible?

Big data has made prediction methods increasingly accurate. But can human behaviour ever be perfectly predicted?

The most basic equation is that of Y = f(X), which reads, "Y is a function of X." Input a value for X, and the scientist will tell you the likely value for Y. The more complex the model, the more need for more inputs, and so the simple equation gets a whole lot more complicated.

Of course, it doesn't always work out. Hurricanes take trajectories not predicted by weather models. Tumours grow slower or faster than predicted. Scientists, just like anyone else, rarely if ever predict perfectly. No matter what data and mathematical model you have, the future is still uncertain. So, scientists have to allow for error in our fundamental equation. That is, Y = f(X) + E, where "E" encompasses our inability to predict perfectly. It's the part of the equation that keeps us humble.

As technology develops, scientists may find that we can predict human behaviour rather well in one area, while still lacking in another. It's very difficult to give an overall sense of the limitations. For instance, facial recognition may be easier to emulate because vision is one of many human sensory processing systems, or because there are only so many ways faces can differ. On the other hand, predicting voting behaviour, especially based on the 2016 presidential election, is quite another story. There are many complex and not yet understood reasons why humans do what they do.

Still others argue that, theoretically at least, that perfect prediction will someday be possible. Until then, with any luck, mathematics and statistics may help us increasingly account for what people, on average, will do next.

— Daniel J Denis and Briana Young, University of Montana (The Conversation)

All problems solved

Dear Coleen

My girlfriend and I are both in our mid-30s and have been together for seven years. Until recently I thought we were best friends. However, a couple of weeks ago she admitted she wanted some "space" and thought it would be good for our relationship to spend more time apart. Her sister has recently moved abroad temporarily for work and my girlfriend said she could live in her sister's flat to look after it, and come back to our place a couple of nights a week. I was pretty shocked, as this idea seemed to come out of nowhere. I thought we were happy together, but she says we need more "romance" and this arrangement would be like dating again.
I can't help feeling hurt and rejected, and worry that it's just the first step in ending the relationship - a way of easing me out gently.
What should I do? I'm not interested in a part-time girlfriend and I'm nervous about where it's all leading.

COLEEN SAYS

I think if she wanted to end the relationship, she'd just leave and go to her sister's. She's obviously feeling unfulfilled and unhappy, so it's important you acknowledge those feelings.
Perhaps your girlfriend feels as if the relationship isn't progressing and it's become a bit stale.
Maybe you've got too comfortable and don't make the effort for each other any more. So, you have to talk about it - what you want from the relationship now and in the future and what's not working.
I think spending time apart can help to revive things if it makes you realise you want to be together with her a few times a week and work on any issues. But it's important you're both committed to putting in the work.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

MIRRORLIGHTS

Is your fur baby happy?

There are numerous signs that can indicate how our dogs are feeling. If your dog shows these following signs, kudos, you're a great dog parent.
Wagging Tail: No prizes guessing. A wagging tail is the most obvious sign of a happy dog. When a dog wags its tail at you or other dogs, it means he's happy and welcoming.
Curved Body: Dogs will occasionally arch their backs and wag their tails. Go give that good kid a pat because it is begging for one. A curved body indicates that you are friendly and social.
Greeting Stretched: A dog will greet you if it stretches ahead of you and then comes to you. This means they have faith in you and regard you as a member of their pack.
Relaxed posture: Dogs are intelligent animals known for their alertness. If your dog is content and trusting you, it will be relaxed and sprawled across the floor in a goofy manner.
Zoomies: You know when your dog starts running around the house all of a sudden? Healthy, happy dogs do this because they get bursts of energy at random. You're doing everything right if your dog has a case of the zoomies.
Your Dog Is Panting: Panting is a natural way for a dog to cool down, but it can also be interpreted as a sign of contentment. good health.

— Kayalvizhi Arivalan

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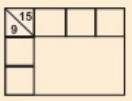
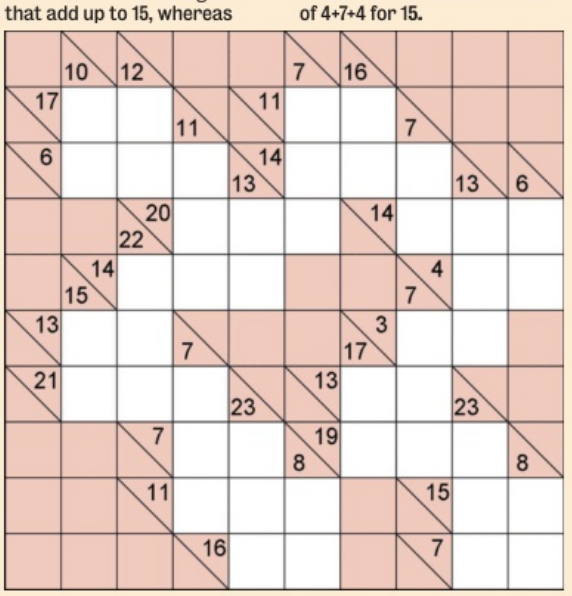
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

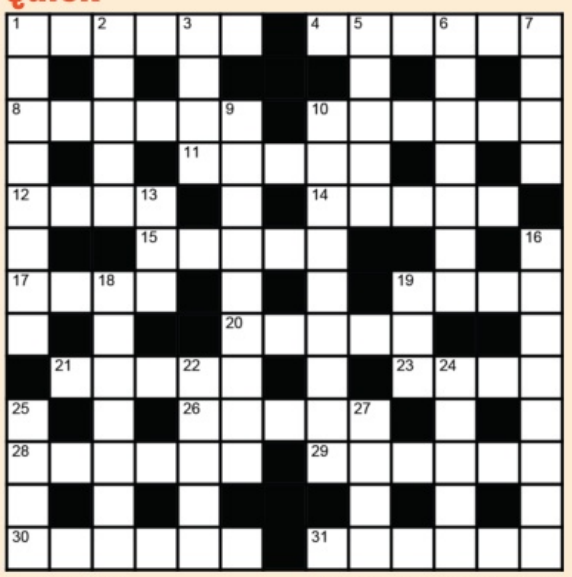


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Calls off (6)
4 ____ out : person or thing different from all others in a group? (3,3)
8 Non-transparent (6)
10 Morose or ill-humoured (6)
11 Sadness or depression (5)
12 Kind of pear (4)
14 Addicts (5)
15 ___ diamond : diamond in its raw form? (5)
17 Water vapour (4)
19 Against (4)
20 Leaning ___of Pisa (5)
21 Alaskan peninsula (5)
23 Chinese dynasty (4)
26 Loud (5)
28 ____ Sebastian Bach : famous German music composer? (6)
29 Angry mood, tantrum or fit (6)
30 A small addition to a big house or building added at a later date (6)
31 Criticised or rebuked severely (6)

DOWN

1 Nuclear weapon (4,4)
2 Egg shapes (5)
3 Strong-arm man? (4)
5 Percussion instruments (5)
6 F1 team (7)
7 Cloistered women (4)
9 Individual's style of speech (9)
10 Karnataka lies on India's ___-___ coast (5-4)
13 Use a knife (3)
16 Remained or stayed in a place longer than expected due to reluctance to leave (8)
18 Former New Zealand skipper Fleming (7)
19 The jointed limb of the body (3)
22 Append; attach (5)
24 State indirectly (5)
25 Purple cap winner at the 2010 IPL (4)
27 Shout (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: L EQUALS T

LGQ DRVMQUBVLT ZUVRNB KDL YXX YZVXVLVQB, VRAXD-CVRN VRAYJYZVXVLT.

Linemaro

You are so cute, I want to throw a rainbow at you

Mindchow

Someone showed it to me and I found it by myself

Joke of the day

Sixty per cent of pit bull attacks occur between tying the bandana around its neck and putting the sunglasses on its face

Loop

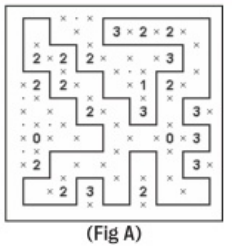
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

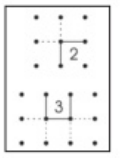
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

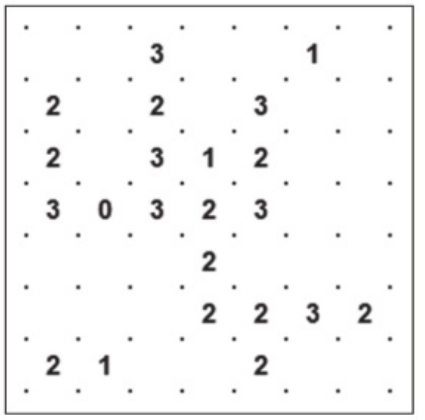
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



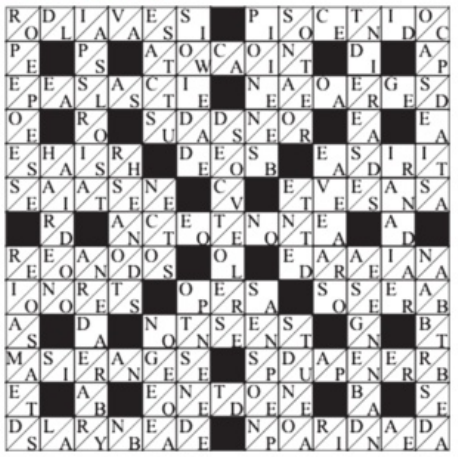
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



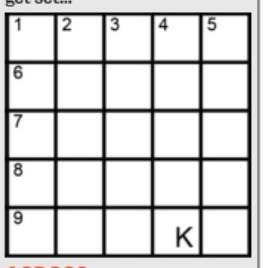
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

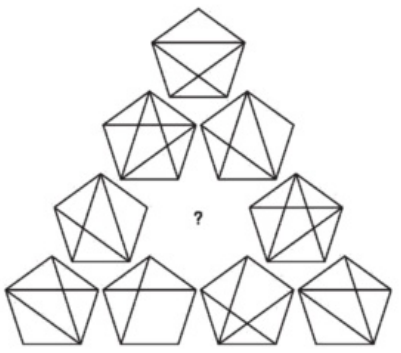
1 Bores; 6 Atria; 7 Saker; 8 Whale; 9 Slink

DOWN

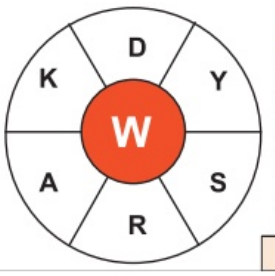
1 Raw LB; 2 Irish; 3 On kea; 4 Stake; 5 Laser

Mensapuzzle

Which is the missing pentagon?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

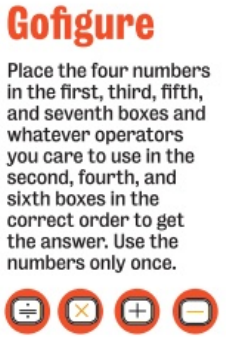
SudokuChallenge

9				1				7
		4				1		
1			7	6	4			9
6	8						7	5
			8		7			
2	9						4	1
4			3	5	9			6
		5				2		
8				7				3

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 6

2 6 7 7

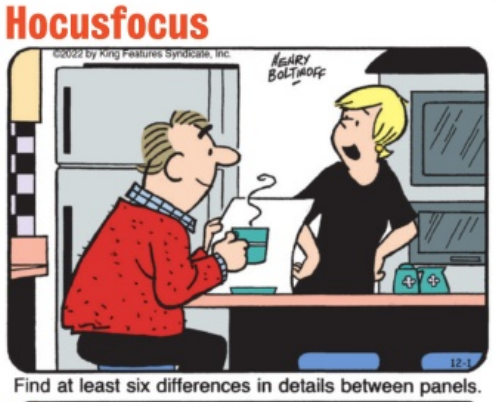
Medium = 32

7 7 9 9

Hard = 19

2 4 7 3

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

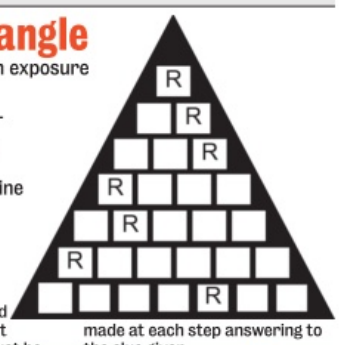
Differences: 1. Cup is smaller. 2. Saucer is missing. 3. Nose is smaller. 4. Tiles are different. 5. Stool is missing. 6. Mouth is open.

Riddler

What common household item wouldn't have become popular if it wasn't for another invention in 1928 (it didn't take off until 1930)?

Alpha triangle

1 A unit of radiation exposure
2 Infra-red abbr
3 Gujarat's Sasan _
4 Phone
5 Shows happiness
6 Tearing down
7 Spiced Spanish wine



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

DEAN, YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT MAGIC AND LEARNING REALLY FAST! BUT IT'S ALSO JUST ILLUSION AND MIS-DIRECTION.
I'M NOT GANDALF.
OR GARGAMEL.
OR MATILDA.
OR SKELETOR.
OR MALEFICENT.
OR MERLIN!
OR SENATOR PALPATINE!
AUTHOR'S NOTE: THIS WENT ON FOR A WHILE.

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today blessings from elders will give you confidence. You should follow your intuition before taking any initiatives, which will help you in your work. Your intuition will help you gain more in terms of finances. You will plan to visit a spiritual place with your family members. You will control your arrogance and enjoy your domestic life. Students can expect good results.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, during the morning, you may feel happy. You will enjoy your work. Afternoon onwards, negative feelings will make you dull, which will affect your professional life. You can expect some domestic arguments. You should avoid lending money to anyone as it may not be recoverable easily. You will analyse yourself and figure out your negativities. Occult sciences will attract you today.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you are blessed by the moon. You will be in a very good mood this morning. You will be more romantic as well. It will bring harmony to your domestic life. Your patience will help you to do your best professionally. You will see some coordination with your colleagues and business partners.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You will be successful in controlling your expenditure on worthless things, which will boost your bank balance. Be careful about your kids' health. Singles can expect progress in terms of marriage. Those in jobs related to travel, diplomats, and supply chain workers will do well. You should be careful about stomach issues.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today your plans may not work on the professional front, which can make you arrogant. You should try to avoid taking important decisions in terms of investments and relationships. Couples and lovebirds should try to avoid making arguments to maintain harmony in their relationships. Students should not choose shortcuts in their studies.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today the moon will make you more sensitive and emotional. You should avoid investing in real estate or other assets. You should take care of your parent's health. You can expect some delay in your work as well. You will face it with patience. On the professional front, you should not be indecisive.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you will be glad. You will be able to strike a balance between your earnings and expenditures, which will boost your finances. Your network will help you implement your plans. Your siblings and subordinate staff will be more helpful today. You may plan to visit your elders.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today your energy levels will be high, so it will make you happy and optimistic. You will fulfil your desires with the help of hard work. You will plan to go for outings with friends and family to share your happiness. Students will hear good news in terms of academics.

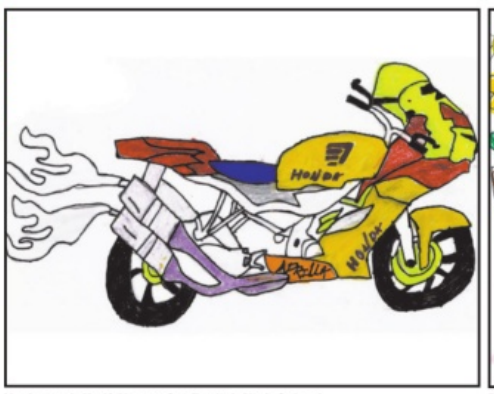
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, until late afternoon, your day is not good. You may feel unhappy and become nervous, but after noon, you will be happier. Internal vitality will boost your self-confidence and you should avoid carelessness in decisions relating to finances, profession, and studies. Sometimes, you may face self respect issues with your spouse.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today your tendency to overspend will affect your savings. You should be careful while expressing yourself at work and on the domestic front. You should avoid lending money. You should postpone important decisions in real estate and other assets. You should try to avoid a tendency of elevation from your responsibilities.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today social get-togethers will re-establish your network, which will give you benefits in the near future. Those related to glamour, art, fashion can plan to do something new in terms of their profession. Students will perform better today in terms of academics. Lovebirds will enjoy happy moments.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today will be a busy day for you in terms of work. Overload can make you tired, but you will enjoy your work. Your day will be good. You will not spend money on worthless things. You will be more polite with your family, friends, and loved ones. You may also get some good news from family members.

KIDZONE



Yashwanth K, 12 Years, Sai English High School

Rananya, 6 Years, Whitefield Global School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
-6(16) -(-6) + (-8) =
-96 + 6 - 8 =
-90 - 8 = -98

RIDDLER
The toaster. It didn't really gain popularity till the invention of the bread slicer in 1928.

BULL'S EYE
awry, draw, SKYWARD, sway, ward, wary

FAST FIVE

B	R	O	S	E
R	I	A	T	A
A	S	K	E	R
W	H	E	A	L
L	I	N	K	S

QUOTE UNCODE
The University brings out all abilities, including incapability.

STRIKE OUT

D	A	Y	B	E	D	P	A	I	N
E	B	E	N	D	O	N	A	E	D
M	I	R	A	G	E	S	U	P	E
A	A	O	N	S	E	T	G	B	R
O	N	E	S	O	R	A	S	E	A
R	O	N	D	O	O	D	R	A	I
E	A	T	E	N	C	E	V	E	N
S	A	S	H	E	O	S	A	D	I
O	O	O	U	D	D	E	R	A	E
P	A	L	A	T	E	N	E	A	R
O	L	I	V	E	S	P	O	E	T

QUICK

A	N	N	E	X	E	F	L	A	Y
H	E	E		L	L	E			
J	O	H	A	N	N	T	E	M	P
O	P	N	O	I	S	Y	M	E	
K	E	N	A	I	E	M	I	N	G
B	T	T	O	W	E	R	N		
O	U	N	C	U	T	E	L		
B	O	S	C	O	U	S	E	R	S
M	L	G	L	O	O	M	A	E	S
O	P	A	Q	U	E	S	U	L	L
T	V	H	R	C	U				

MENSA PUZZLE
D: the contents of each pentagon are determined by the contents of two pentagons immediately below it. Lines are carried forward from these two pentagons, except when two lines appear in the same position, in which case they are cancelled out.

SUDOKU

9	3	6	5	1	8	4	2	7
7	5	4	9	2	3	1	6	8
1	2	8	7	6	4	3	5	9
6	8	3	2	4	1	9	7	5
5	4	1	8	9	7	6	3	2
2	9	7	6	3	5	8	4	1
4	1	2	3	5	9	7	8	6
3	7	5	1	8	6	2	9	4
8	6	9	4	7	2	5	1	3

ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, In, Gir, Ring, Grins, Rasing, Sangria.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 - 6 + 7 - 2 = 6
Medium
7 + 7 + 9 + 9 = 32
Hard
3 x 7 - 4 + 2 = 19

LOOP

KAKURO

Volume No 15, Issue No 37 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/22411 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018 and printed by him at Fourth Estate Ltd, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, Bommasandra Industrial Area, Hosur Road, Bengaluru 560099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru 560 018. Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon – responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

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